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the procedure followed in securing such legislation, the structure of the new governing bodies and the powers and duties with which they were invested. The conflicts between the reformers and the adherents of the old order are recounted with graphic detail. When it was proposed to abolish the office of overseer of the poor a churchwarden of Woolwich cried out indignantly: "Such speculative reformatations are too closely allied to revolutions; and we deprecate every idea which can in any way tend unnecessarily to deface the wise structure erected by antiquity." There is ample proof, however, that the reforms were anything but speculative; they were adopted without relation to any general scheme and by what Mr. Spencer calls "the truly English method," "the wise and sufficient, if insular, method." Each community looked only to its own immediate experience and petitioned parliament for the satisfaction of its particular needs. The system of municipal government grew up naturally in response to the new social conditions; and, as Sir Edward Clarke remarks in his preface to the book, "the later developments, intended to give it scientific completeness, are in some respects the least satisfactory of all its parts." Mr. Spencer collected the material for his book while assisting the Webbs in the preparation of their history of local government; not only has great industry been expended upon the work of investigation, but considering the complexity of the subject its orderly and lucid presentation should be commended. There has been some carelessness in reading proof; on page 311 two sentences are unintelligible.

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Tarbell, Ida M. *The Tariff in Our Times.* Pp. ix, 375. Price, \$1.50. New York: Macmillan Company, 1911.

In this book, consisting largely of material previously published in the *American Magazine*, Miss Tarbell traces the history of our tariff since 1860. The narrative is entertainingly written in popular style and throws new light upon the political bickerings and log-rollings by means of which the duties have been made more and more protective; but there are no contributions of importance to the theory of the tariff or its practical economic effects. The main purpose is to expose the dominating principle of granting favors to constituents and campaign contributors regardless of the interests of consumers. The chief factor in determining the rate of duty imposed upon any article has been the organized strength of the producers. The attitude taken by the author is one of severe condemnation of the legislative methods of the protectionists.

The falsity of the pauper labor argument is rehearsed; the fact that the tariff is a tax is emphasized; and the benefits to the trusts are again pointed out. Throughout, however, a strong bias is manifested. It seems unwarranted, for example, to drag in the United Shoe Machinery Company as a possible beneficiary of the tariff. Similarly, the statement (page 355) that the earnings of the cotton mills have been "tremendous" is unjustified; a

few have paid high dividends but the average has not been extraordinary. Again, too much emphasis is placed on the McKinley Act and its successors (page 288) in causing the substitution of cotton for wool, a change which progressed more rapidly before 1890 than after. Finally, in view of the apparent desire to discredit all protectionists, it is to be regretted that the vivid portrayals of personalities prominent in tariff manipulations, often-times in none too complimentary terms, have not been substantiated by references to the sources of information. The entire absence of footnotes seriously detracts from the scientific worth of the book.

The statement (page 329) that the tariff is "the most serious matter since the days of slavery" will not be universally accepted. On the contrary, there are good grounds for asserting that the tariff does not deserve the importance frequently attributed to it by supporters or opponents. The author's conclusion, however, that the most injurious effect of our tariff system has been, not the hardship to the poor nor the injustice to consumers in general, but the contamination of public morals by reason of the commercialism developed in Congress, deserves thoughtful consideration.

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Yen, H. L. *A Survey of Constitutional Development in China.* Pp. 136. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1911.

This work is a scholarly treatise on the development of political ideas in China. It should have especial value to those students of political science and sociology who are anxious to know something about the evolution of Chinese political institutions and the principal basis of the Chinese political system. But for a person who desires to get a glimpse of the contemporary political situation in that far eastern country this monograph cannot be much relied upon, for it almost entirely deals with Chinese political philosophy. "Political Philosophy," the title of the first chapter is in fact the key to the book. This chapter, as the name indicates, is a systematic review of the political theories propounded by the leading philosophers of Cathay two thousand years ago. The second chapter deals with feudalism which was the prevailing form of government before and at the time of Confucius. This was in fact the political environment of Confucius, and the Confucian classics practically constitute the only reliable authority for the description of this political system. The third chapter bears the name of public law, but has reference to the Confucian moral code so far as it may be applied politically. This entire chapter is, therefore, a description of nothing but the political philosophy of Confucius. The fourth chapter is a very short one, dealing with the political situation after the time of Confucius. Only the last chapter comes down to modern times and deals with the movement for a constitution.

The main criticism of the work that can be made is that it should not bear the title, "A Survey of Constitutional Development in China." A far more appropriate title would be "The Political Philosophy of Confucius."